

(*Galeobdolum luteum*), and some sprays of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), all in water pots to maintain freshness. The floor of the cage was of earth and still strewn with fallen ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) seeds from 1971, in a dry condition. On the first day of captivity the larva ate only these seeds, but on the six subsequent days it ate large amounts of oak and beech foliage and nothing else, despite availability of the foodplant on which it was found feeding. On 12th May it ate a little *Urtica* and *Galeobdolum* but quickly returned to beech leaves on which it fed copiously. On 14th May it became restless and stopped feeding; it buried a few days later. This larva's preference for two hitherto unrecorded foodplants, not available where it was found, seems to merit publication. The larva's polyphagy appears to be even wider than hitherto suspected.—E. P. WILTSHIRE, 23 avenue Foch, Le Havre. 30.v.1972.

HOMOEOSOMA SAXICOLA VAUGHAN (LEP. PHYCITINAE)—In late June 1964 I noticed signs of larval feeding in the flowers of Chamomile plants growing near the harbour wall at Par. In these I found two kinds of larvae, the one dipterous and the other lepidopterous. Over the next two weeks I collected a few further flowers for rearing purposes.

I noticed that while the diptera seemed to occur indiscriminately in all parts of the flower except the petals, the lepidoptera seemed to prefer the middle of the flower, and, when resting, in the hollow at the top of the stem just below the flower.

During August 1964 moths and flies began to emerge together, and with the help of the key in Beirne's British Pyralid and Plume Moths, I was able to determine the moths with reasonable certainty as *saxicola*.

In the summers of 1965 to 1970 I frequently searched chamomile flowers on many parts of the Cornish coast, but failed to find *saxicola* larvae again for six consecutive seasons. Whether the larvae were really absent, or whether I had just failed to find them for reasons of time or place, I do not know. However, in late July 1971 and throughout August I was pleased to re-discover larvae in quite a number of coastal localities, all within a few feet of the sea and some actually on the shore. Larvae were particularly abundant at Kiberick Cove, near Nare Head, and at Constantine Bay on the North Coast.

The larvae varied from light greenish to purplish brown, with dark dorsal and sub-dorsal lines, the dorsal being darker than the sub-dorsal. The under surface varied from pale green to pale brown.

The 1971 larvae had all become purplish brown and appeared to be full-fed by late August or early September and I was able to photograph them at this stage. Each larvae constructed a substantial blackish coloured cocoon with a few supporting strands of black silk, reaching about half an inch

away. Most of these cocoons were at the top or bottom of the jars in which the larvae were housed, only a few spinning up amongst the flower heads. During the winter of 1971-72, several of the cocoons produced hymenopterous parasites.

In May 1972 I was surprised to find a small greyish-green larva walking about in one of the jars. It was only about half the size it had been when it ceased to feed at the end of the previous summer, and had reverted in colour to that of a half-grown larva. Within the following three weeks other larvae had abandoned their winter cocoons, by which time the first larva had constructed a second cocoon, light greenish grey this time, more compact and without the supporting strands. One by one, the other larvae did likewise, after refusing the fresh chamomile which I had offered to them. Some of these second cocoons were quite substantial, while others were so flimsy as to be almost non-existent so that the light yellowish brown pupa could be easily seen inside. The first moth appeared on 1st or 2nd July and others are still appearing.

My observations agree with Ford in his Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera, but it seems that the species may be either univoltine or bi-voltine in Cornwall; a subject for further investigation. — JOHN L. GREGORY, Lepidoptera House, Bodelva, Par, Cornwall. 9.vii.1972.

PHYLLONORYCTER RAJELLA L. (LEP. GRACILLARIIDAE) IN HAMPSHIRE — On the 6th of November, 1971, I was in the vicinity of Petersfield. At the bottom of a steep-sided chalk pit, I found several trees of *Alnus incana* heavily mined by a species of *Phyllonorycter*, several leaves containing two or three mines. I took 40 mines, and earlier this year, I was pleased to have 22 moths duly emerge. The moth was unknown to me, but was identified by Mr S. N. A. Jacobs as *Phyllonorycter rajella* L. This is I believe, a new county record for Hampshire. — S. E. WHITEBREAD, Grove Farm, Higham, Kent. 13.vi.1972.

PARASCOTIA FULIGINARIA L. ON THE MIDLAND (BIRMINGHAM) PLATEAU — I should like to put on record the capture of a female specimen of the Waved Black Moth (*Parascotia fuliginaria* L.) which came to m.v. light on the night of 24th July 1971 at Randan Wood, Worcestershire, and from which I obtained eggs. This capture surely confirms the very early, but previously unconfirmed report of this species being taken *circa* 1860 at Croome in Worcestershire, which is only 17 miles from the forementioned locality. It would appear from other records that this species occurs all along the Severn Valley in suitable places from the Shropshire/Worcestershire border southwards. I purposely withheld the information until I had looked for larvae in the area in which it was captured, but although I have searched several times for it since April, I have been unlucky. I am now looking forward to bred examples of the moth from the three hammock-like cocoons, and three nearly full-fed larvae which I have at the time of writing. — L. J. EVANS, 73 Warren Hill Road, Birmingham B44 8HA. 15.vii.1972.